

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force 2006 Accomplishments

At the 12th Meeting in Memphis in December, 2005, the Task Force agreed to a number of goals for calendar year 2006. These were:

Annual Work Plan

- The Coordinating Committee will move forward to implement the work plan with support from the Task Force.

Timeline for Reassessment

- The target for completing the reassessment and developing a final revised *Action Plan* continues to be late 2007.

Basin Science and Management Panel Review

- The Coordinating Committee will pursue using EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) to conduct the review of basin science and management practices. The Coordinating Committee will continue to explore other possibilities including other expert scientific organizations such as the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST).

Revised Action Plan

- The Coordinating Committee will prepare a scoping document that explores potential revisions to the *Action Plan*. The document will provide a road map for the Task Force to anticipate key reassessment questions and ensure completion of a new plan on schedule. Through an iterative process, this document will be revised to reflect outcomes of the ongoing reassessment.

Funding Request

- The Task Force recognizes that funding from federal and state members of the Task Force is of continued importance. Consistent with the *Action Plan* item #1 ("Integrated Federal Budget"), we commit to a continued dialogue on opportunities for increased funding for the work of sub-basin teams and implementation by states and others.

With this guidance, the Coordinating Committee endeavored to meet these expectations. We believe we have had a successful year and on on-target for completing the Reassessment in late 2007. Accomplishments include:

Coordinating Committee met by conference call eight times, and had a two-day face-to-face meeting.

Planned and carried out three science symposia to complete the four symposia as part of the Reassessment.

- Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico: Assessing the State of the Science
- The Lower Basin Science Symposium
- The Nutrient Sources, Fate and Transport in the Mississippi River Basin Symposium

Management Action Reassessment Team compiled information from Farm Bill programs, 319, FWS, and point source distribution

Science Reassessment team compiled 330 citations and abstracts for submittal to SAB

Worked with the EPA Science Advisory Board Panel to convene the Hypoxia Advisory Panel

- Call for nominations
- Comments on nominations
- Negotiated final charge
- Panel selection
- Panel meetings and conference calls, which included a number of presentations from many Coordinating Committee Members

Visioning (scoping) document development

- Calls among a small group of Coordinating Committee Members
- Document development with multiple opportunities for input
- Workgroups at the face-to-face meeting to finalize themes
- Final document for Task Force agreement

Budget dialogue ongoing and multiple agencies supported elements of the Reassessment